

II. *A good temper.*

1. Quiets wrath, Prov. 15: 1, 18.
2. An evidence of a strong character, Prov. 16: 32.
3. An evidence of good understanding, Prov. 14: 29.
4. An evidence of discretion, Prov. 19: 11.
5. Is necessary for Christians to obey these scriptures:—Rom. 12: 14, 18; I Cor. 6: 7; 10: 32; Gal. 6: 1; Phil. 2: 14; Col. 3: 12, 13.

III. *Remarks.*

1. Perhaps no sin is so common in this hurried world as loss of temper.
2. A bad temper is the father of so many sins that it should be carefully guarded.
3. A good, sweet temper can be such a blessing to everyone around without many words.
4. Let all of us who are quicktempered ask Christ to help us each time we are tried in this way.

J. L. GILLIN.

The Highest Blessing

Crowning all other marks of Heaven's favors,—and that which no fluctuations of trade, no temporary adversity, can obscure or cause to depreciate,—we have the gift of a Savior from sin, and the proffers of immortal life. Not only have we that word shown to Jacob—that statutes and judgments which were the distinction of his posterity, challenging their peculiar praise,—but we have that clearer, more spiritual, more beneficent revelation of which prophets inquired and searched diligently, and into which the angels desire to look. This is the essential foundation of our greatness, the main support of our material and civil prosperity. For it chiefly are we called upon to honor our God, as well as for the more powerful and happy illustration of its principles which we have in our present political and social conditions, more than has marked the origin and progress of any other people.

The great duty devolving on us for these blessings, evidently is, to preserve incorrupt our institutions and the traditions that have been dominant among us, and, foremost, to uphold, exemplify, and spread over this whole land the Gospel and its agencies. If we owe to Christianity everything we value, we are bound, in filial gratitude no less than for self-preservation, to heed its claims, to maintain its power and rights, and to seek its universal supremacy. As we prize our opportunities for wealth, education, social freedom, and general advancement, we must uphold and extend their source.

True to God and to the institutions of his religion, we shall continue to ride on the high places of power, and be a peculiar treasure unto him above all people. Showing that we care practically for his statutes and ordinances above all things else, that our personal desires and possessions are all made subservient to the kingdom of Christ, he will honor us still further in the eyes of the nations. Dealing liberally with him, we shall be blessed in our basket and our store, in our families and our kindred, in our public growth and our government. We shall prove a joy to the whole earth. Our light will not abide in obscurity, but radiate to every quarter of the globe. It will increase and penetrate till every tribe and race shall arise from the slumber of ages. Our indepen-

dence will be real, safe, and contagious. Our liberty, centering in God, shall abide, unfold, and blossom into the bright, consummate flower of millennial beauty. Then from the Orient, and the isles of the sea, from every kindred and clime, shall the choral song of Peace, Liberty, and Love, caught from us, float back with every wind to its first home,—our own blest America.

Thankful and Content

There need not be a large degree of prosperity necessary in order to justly elicit a hearty thanksgiving from an appreciative heart. "Better is a dinner of herbs, where love is, than a stalled ox and hatred therewith." Your heart is the dining hall for this meal, and there must be enough love present to recognize as from God, even the herbs, *and to be contented with them.* Cultivate content of heart, believing that you have more from God than you deserve,—which is but the simple truth,—and, then, whatever you have will be sufficient degree of prosperity to enable you to rejoice. It is related that a little girl one day ran up to a playmate, saying, "See, my mamma has given me a piece of bread with butter on!" After a short and somewhat perplexed pause, the other little one, her face brightened, and, holding up the piece of bread she was eating, exclaimed, "My mamma has given me a piece of bread *without* butter on!" Let us at this time be thankful for what we have, and not sinfully discontented for what we have not.

THEIRS IS THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN

Matt. 5: 3

J. M. BOWMAN

But another question was burning in the thoughts of the multitude that day. Who can become citizens of the kingdom?

Many were thinking that nationality would be the sole qualification and that none save Israelites could hope for the privilege of its protection. Even the disciples held this view long after the ascension of Christ, and had to be taught by the Holy Spirit and the earnest teaching and contention of Paul. But it is to the poor in spirit, of whatever nation, that the kingdom is thrown open. If we can find what Jesus meant by the "poor in spirit," we shall know one great necessary qualification to membership in the kingdom which Christ set up here on earth.

He can hardly mean the poor in worldly possessions to the exclusion of others, nor can he mean to include all such as may be thus conditioned tho a blessing is pronounced upon those who have foregone the possession of earthly things for the sake of Christ. Luke 6: 20; Heb. 13: 16. But poverty in earthly things is often the result of sloth and drowsiness (Prov. 20: 13; 23: 21,) when diligence is taught and commended, (Heb. 11: 16; Rom. 12: 11.) It is often the result of bad company, (Prov. 28: 19,) or of drunkenness and gluttony, (Prov. 23: 21.) He can not mean poverty of nature and lack of endowments, for this trait is noticed and deplored by Christ himself, (Matt. 13: 19,

21.) It is the spirit that has nothing of its own to bring and depend upon, but casts itself wholly upon God and seeks all from him. It is the spirit that has no other allegiance, and upon which no other power can make any claim.

Miamisburg, O.

PEACE

B. C. MOOMAW.

What a blessed thought! Not long since we had a World's Congress to bring about universal peace, the cessation of strife. War-cursed humanity looked longingly toward the Hague, hoping and yet doubting, for it seemed too good to be true that the nations were seeking to be brothers. A popular cartoon represented Mars, the gigantic god of war, sitting as the chairman of that Congress, the peace commissioners appearing as pigmies in the background. That cartoon came very near the faith of the world in the results of the Congress. A bloody war is now in progress, waged by the very nation that proposed and carried to a successful issue the arbitration scheme adopted by Congress. All good men are hoping that the war will soon end, and peace again descend upon the world. But most people are hoping that the great British empire will not get the victory over the little republic of pious farmers.

What a benediction of heaven is spiritual peace, peace of mind, peace of God, the peace which the world cannot give, armor of proof against the world's troubles and sorrows, effectual antidote to the terrors of death, strong assurance against the day of judgment, eternal refuge in the ages to come.

The Mission Field

GENERAL

WASHINGTON CITY ECHOES

W. M. LYON.

We had a very pleasant surprise on last Sunday. Brother D. C. Moomaw of Roanoke, Virginia, called on us in the afternoon and remained till after the evening services; would have been with us in the morning worship, but got wrong directions, and therefore failed to find our place in time. We were very sorry, indeed, that he was compelled to make such a short visit, but it was as *sweet* as it was *short*.

I wish I could express in words the joy that came to us as our dear brother spoke to us from that wonderful "love chapter." 1 Cor. 3: 1.

WHAT OTHERS MISSED.

"O, if I had only known it, I'm sure I would have been there; it is too bad I did not get to hear Brother Moomaw." Yes, that is a fact, you certainly did miss a great spiritual feast, that is quite true; so did Thomas on a certain occasion. John 20: 23. Jesus came that first Sunday evening and Thomas was not in the meeting; perhaps he was "too tired." I wish we knew all that Thomas said that time. But I am sure he must have said something like this: "Well,